

For Immediate Release  
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## **City Announces Falcon Naming Contest** *Local Middle School Students to Name Fledglings*

**San José, CA** – Today the City of San José invited all local middle school students to name the City's three newest residents. The world watched, via Falcon Cam, as City Hall Peregrine Falcons, Clara and Jose, hatched three chicks on April 28 and continues to watch as the babies grow. Now as the fledglings prepare to face their greatest challenge – learning to fly – the City of San José is asking middle school students to research these endangered birds and submit possible names that reflect their struggle to survive.

“We are all very committed to the young falcons, however, it's important to note that they are wild creatures, not pets,” says Mayor Chuck Reed. “Because we want them to live a natural, wild existence, we're limited in what we can do to protect them and help them thrive. That's why we're asking middle school students, who have begun to study the natural world and understand perils of nature, to name the birds.”

The notice went out to public and private middle schools in the City of San José today requesting the students' help with this unique task. Peregrine falcons are an endangered species, and they face a daunting set of challenges to reach adulthood. The UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Group (SCPBG), who partnered with the City in working with the birds, is expected to band the fledglings within the next two weeks. At that time, the researchers will determine the gender of the chicks.

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Students entering the contest are asked to learn about peregrine falcons, their habits, habitat, and the obstacles they encounter everyday. Each school is asked to submit only two names (one male and one female) and the reason why they chose those names for these special birds.

The three winning names will be chosen by the San Jose Peregrine Falcon Discussion Group, an online forum dedicated to the City Hall Falcons. Mayor Reed will announce the winning names in June. The winning schools will receive commendation at a future council meeting, a school assembly in the fall by UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group's Glenn Stewart and his falcon, Curtis, and the thrill of watching *their* bird grow, change and, with hope, beat the odds.

- School will submit their nominations to [SJFalcons@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:SJFalcons@sanjoseca.gov). Deadline for names submission is **Tuesday, May 22, 2007**.

Watching the birds has become a popular pastime, not only in San José, but around the world. The site has received over 80,000 hits since the chicks hatched. The discussion group has grown to more than 500 participants and inquiries have arrived from as far away as New Zealand, Bolivia, and Egypt. Even U.S. troops in Iraq have been emailing questions about the falcon family.

To watch Clara, Jose and their three hatchlings in action online, go to <http://falconcam.sanjoseca.gov/nest>.

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